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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/089,089	05/19/2005	Peter Howlett	221842US2PCT	4452
22850 7590 10/26/2009 OBLON, SPIVAK, MCCLELLAND MAIER & NEUSTADT, L.L.P. 1940 DUKE STREET ALEXANDRIA, VA 22314				
EXAMINER MARC, MCDEUNEL				
ART UNIT 3664		PAPER NUMBER		
NOTIFICATION DATE 10/26/2009		DELIVERY MODE ELECTRONIC		

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Notice of the Office communication was sent electronically on above-indicated "Notification Date" to the following e-mail address(es):

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Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/089,089

Applicant(s)

HOWLETT ET AL.

Examiner

MCDIEUNEL MARC

Art Unit

3664

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 10 April 2009.
2a) ☒ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 10-16 is/are pending in the application.
4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
6) ☒ Claim(s) 10-16 is/are rejected.
7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 11 April 2002 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-8508)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____

- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____
5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application
6) ☐ Other: _____

Allowable Subject Matter

1. Claims 1-9 had been deleted and new claims 10-16 are pending.
2. The final rejection to claims 10-16 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Walker (US 6965816) has been withdrawn in view of new found prior arts.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

3. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

4. This application currently names joint inventors. In considering patentability of the claims under 35 U.S.C. 103(a), the examiner presumes that the subject matter of the various claims was commonly owned at the time any inventions covered therein were made absent any evidence to the contrary. Applicant is advised of the obligation under 37 CFR 1.56 to point out the inventor and invention dates of each claim that was not commonly owned at the time a later invention was made in order for the examiner to consider the applicability of 35 U.S.C. 103(c) and potential 35 U.S.C. 102(e), (f) or (g) prior art under 35 U.S.C. 103(a).

5. Claims 10-16 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Walker (US 20080091309) in view of Ingels (US 4024493).

As per claims 10 and 11, Walker 20080091309 teaches a maintenance system (see section [0361]) comprising: a plurality of equipment units each associated with a monitoring unit for monitoring the respective equipment unit (see section [0022]), the monitoring unit including (see section [0373]), a test unit for testing the respective equipment unit on proper operation and for issuing fault messages in a case when the testing indicates a failure of the respective equipment unit (see sections [0160 and 0370]), and a non-volatile memory unit for storing at least the fault messages (see section [0496]); a central maintenance unit in communication with the test units of the plurality of equipment units (see sections [0022 and 0370]), the central maintenance unit including a diagnosis unit for checking a state of the plurality of equipment units by using the fault messages of the test units (see section [0495], wherein emergency shut down has been considered as fault), and for generating a report on an overall state of an operation of the maintenance system (see section [0503]); and a data transmission link for providing a data connection between the plurality of equipment units and the central maintenance unit (see section [0505]), wherein the central maintenance unit is configured to make the report on the overall state of the operation available on the data transmission link (see sections [0503 and 0505]), and wherein each the plurality of equipment units further include a detection circuit for detecting, capturing (see section [0507]), and transferring the report on the overall state of the operation from the data transmission link into the respective non-volatile memory unit after the report on the overall state of the operation is

available on the data transmission link (see sections [0503, 0506 and 0507]). Walker does not specifically teach a fleet of motor vehicles/cars/truck.

Ingels teaches a fleet of motor vehicles/cars/truck (see col. 1, lines 45-47).

It would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify the system of Walker, with the fleet system of Ingels, because this modification would have introduced fleet into the maintenance system for a set of equipment.

As per claim 12, Walker 20080091309 teaches a maintenance system (see section [0361]) that further comprising: a user interface linked to the central maintenance unit by the data transmission link (see page 69, col. 2, claim 1, until page 70), the user interface configured to display the report on the overall state of the operation to a user (see section [0513])

As per claim 13, Walker 20080091309 teaches a maintenance system (see section [0361]) the report on the overall state of the operation is a post flight report that includes a log of all the fault messages that were received by the central maintenance unit during a flight of an aircraft (see section [0160], wherein the black box has been used just as during a flight of an aircraft).

As per claim 14, Walker 20080091309 teaches a maintenance system (see section [0361]) that further comprising: an airborne external communications network (see page 69, col. 2, claim 1, until page 70), connected to the maintenance system (see section [0160], wherein the black box has been used just as during a flight of an aircraft).

As per claim 15, Walker 20080091309 teaches a maintenance system (see section [0361]) wherein the detection circuit analyzes labels of messages that are transmitted over the

data transmission link (see page 69, col. 2, claim 1, until page 70), and retains the group fault messages and the report on the overall state of the operation that were found by analyzing the labels of the messages (see black box as noted above).

As per claim 16, Walker 20080091309 teaches a maintenance system (see section [0361]) wherein the central maintenance unit is configured to submit the report on the overall state of the operation after a flight upon an instruction by a user (see section [0513] and the black box).

6. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to MCDIEUNEL MARC whose telephone number is (571)272-6964. The examiner can normally be reached on 6:30-5:00 Mon-Thu.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Khoi Tran can be reached on (571) 272-6919. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

/McDieunel Marc/
Examiner, Art Unit 3664
Monday, October 19, 2009
/KHOI TRAN/
Supervisory Patent Examiner, Art Unit 3664